REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR (Karnataka): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare and Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee relating thereto:--

(1) Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill, 1991.

(2) Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that Shri Viren J. Shah has gone abroad. He is not in a position to attend the House during the remaining part of the current Session. He has, therefore, requested for leave of absence for the remaining part of the current Session.

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Viren J. Shah for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the remaining period of the current Session?

(No. hon. Member dissented)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Price Policy for Copra for 1995 Season

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Chavan Saheb, there is one more thing. There was a statement which was laid yesterday regarding the price policy for copra in the Lok Sabha. They want to lay it here also. In our House, on a statement, we always have clarifications. We were in the process of a discussion. I said, "You can lay it on the Table of the House". And, whenever the House is free, we will take up the clarifications. You can have the clarifications. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, this is an issue which people from all over the southern States are very much concerned about.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am allowing a discussion. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M.A. BABY: We can allow the Minister to lay it on the Table now. But, at a later stage, we will have to seek clarifications.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have said it. Mr. Baby, the unfortunation part is that the humming in the House goes on too much and Members do not listen when I make a statement from the Chair. Thirdly, if you do not mind, I will make a comment. Members want me to repeat my ruling so that it is reported in papers, "This Member made this point". Never mind, you take the credit for it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M.A. BABY: We are very much concerned about that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have said that we can take it up whenever the House is free. We can seek clarifications. But as we are in the process of a discussion, I said, "Just lay it now". The right of our Members is not curtailed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Madam, the Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of milling copra at Rs. 2,500/- per quintal and that of FAQ variety of ball copra at Rs. 2,725/- per quintal for 1995 season. This marks an increase of Rs. 150 per quintal of MSP for both milling and ball copra in 1995 over their respective MSPs of the previous season. The increase in MSPs is expected to induce the copra growers to invest more and raise the productivity and production of copra.

RE: DOORDARSHAN'S COVERAGE OF RAJYA SABHA PROCEEDINGS

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदया, मुझे एक मिनट बोलने का मौका दें। इस सदन की